



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, June 9, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/>

Emergency Programs

Karnal bunt - Surveys have been undertaken in areas regulated for Karnal bunt. Although sampling in Texas is over 60% completed no fields have been found positive for bunted kernels and all the seed samples have been negative for spores. The survey within the regulated area of Arizona is 50 percent complete with fifteen fields positive for bunted kernels. The regulatory survey in California is also 50 percent completed. Three fields have been determined to be positive.

Contact: Bob Spaide (301) 734-7819

Robert.G.Spaide@USDA.Gov

Asian longhorned beetle - The National Invasive Species Council will be visiting the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) project in Illinois on June 26, 2003. They are asking for a brief history of ALB in IL, a status report of the eradication efforts, and public outreach activities and successes. In New York this week, we are finalizing the treatment contracts for Manhattan and Islip, Long Island. Treatments are planned to begin in New York about June 18, 2003. New Jersey Department of Agriculture is planning a media event with Secretary Charles Kuperus, Commissioner Brad Campbell, and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in the next two or three weeks in Jersey City to highlight the ALB program, the restoration activities, and to alert the public of ALB adult emergence.

Emerald ash borer - Through May, the program has disposed of 5,000 tons of wood debris from dead or dying ash trees in the Detroit metropolitan area. The program has set up 4 sites for communities to bring ash wood debris for proper handling and disposal to prevent the spread of the pest. The wood debris is chipped and sent to a nearby electric cogeneration plant for immediate burning. So far, over 150 truck loads of chips have been transported to the plant.

An outbreak site was recently discovered in the Chelsea area of Washtenaw County. The site is outside the current core area but within the regulated area.

Delimiting surveys are in progress to determine the extent of the outbreak.

Adult beetles have been sighted signifying the beginning of the emergence period. Researchers hope to use this season to develop better survey and control systems and techniques

Contact: Mike Stefan (301) 734-7338

Michael.B.Stefan@USDA.Gov

Plum Pox - The survey portion of the Pennsylvania program is continuing on schedule. To date 185 orchard blocks in four counties have been sampled. These blocks are located in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Lancaster, and York Counties. These are the counties that contain or are nearby to the current quarantine areas. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture laboratory in Harrisburg has processed 25,800 8 leaf samples with no positive results for Plum Pox Virus (PPV) to date. The survey of residential properties in and around the regulated areas has so far visited 4,826 properties and collected samples from 1,145 properties where *Prunus* was found. The survey of commercial cherry orchards in the quarantine areas (cherry is NOT known to be a host of the D strain of PPV present in PA) included 13 orchards - none of these samples from these orchards were positive for PPV - a not unexpected result.

Citrus Canker - An important component of the citrus canker eradication program carried out in residential areas of the State has been the vouchers provided to homeowners in recognition of the impact caused by the loss of their citrus trees - removed either because they were infected with the disease, or because they were within 1,900 ft. of an infected tree and were considered to be exposed (and likely to be found to be infected with citrus canker in the future). For the last several years the State has been providing affected homeowners with vouchers worth \$100 for the first tree destroyed, and \$55 for each additional tree. In addition, some counties have been providing additional relief, either in the form of



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supplementary payments, or through the distribution of young trees (not citrus) for replanting. Recently, Palm Beach County authorities have announced they will terminate the \$45 per tree supplementary voucher provided by the County, and the tree distribution program conducted by Broward County will end in December. There are currently more than 200,000 infected and exposed trees in residential areas awaiting destruction. Compensation for losses experienced by commercial growers who have had groves destroyed due to citrus canker is provided by the Federal Government. Contact: Steve Poe (301) 734-8899

Stephen.R.Poe@USDA.Gov

Domestic Programs

Aircraft and Equipment Operations - Aircraft and Equipment Operations (AEO) provided one agricultural airplane and pilot to support the Imported Fire Ant research and development project in Grenada and Columbus, Mississippi. Two test plots at each location were aerially treated with a 50/50 mixture of Siege Pro and Extinguish fire ant bait at the rate of 1.25 pounds per acre. This project was in cooperation with USDA, APHIS, PPQ, Center for Plant Health Science and Technology, Gulfport, Mississippi, and USDA, Agricultural Research Services, Stoneville, Mississippi.

One PPQ pilot and agricultural airplane aerially applied Wilbur-Ellis Sevin 5 Bait on two research and development test sites near Mountain Home, Idaho, for the control of Mormon cricket. This project was in cooperation with the State Plant Health Director, Boise, Idaho.

Contact: Timothy J. Roland (956) 580-7270

Timothy.J.Roland@USDA.Gov

Grasshopper - The first grasshopper treatments in 2003 were conducted in Nebraska with 2 treatment blocks completed and 2 more blocks ongoing representing about 84,000 acres treated using a Reduced Agent/Area Treatment strategy which protects about 168,000 acres. There may be a need to conduct treatments on 6 additional blocks in Nebraska. Several APHIS employees from other states have been sent to Nebraska

to assist with these programs. Mormon cricket treatments were recently completed in California, Idaho, and Utah.

Imported Fire Ant - Regulatory incidents involving pine straw shipments were reported from uninfested portions of Tennessee. As a result of these incidents and incidents in other states, pine straw suppliers will be notified of measures they can take to prevent moving imported fire ants in their shipments.

Contact: Charlie Brown (301) 734-4838

Charlie.L.Brown@USDA.Gov

Sudden oak death - Four plants of Rhododendron "Unique" were confirmed infected in a Washington State nursery as a result of a trace forward from plants found infected in an Oregon nursery. The State Plant Health Director, in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), placed the nursery under an Emergency Action Notice ordering destruction of the infected plants and a hold on the nursery's plants pending inspection confirming their disease free condition. Nursery owners are cooperating with the actions. WSDA has been following up with trace forwards of any movements of potentially infected stock and in conducting a survey within ¼ mile to insure that there was no spread of the disease. This detection follows previous reports of infected plants in nurseries outside the currently regulated areas in California and Oregon. Surveys of over 1000 sites in the past two years in a national survey have not detected any other nurseries with the disease.

Contact: Jonathan Jones (301) 734-5038

Jonathan.M.Jones@USDA.Gov